

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /073 W
-----043830 261351Z /50

R 260913Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8738
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUSAKA 2267

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PGOV ZA
SUBJ: BUSINESSMAN ANNOUNCES AS CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

REF: LUSAKA 2225 (NOTAL)

1. ZAMBIAN BUSINESSMAN ROBERT S. K. CHILUWE ANNOUNCED IN A
PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED JUNE 22 THAT HE INTENDS TO RUN AS A

CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT IN OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT JAUNDA.
DESPITE THE FACT THAT MOST OBSERVERS DO NOT RPT NOT REGARD
CHILUWE'S CHALLENGE AS A SERIOUS ONE, THERE HAS BEEN AN
OFFICIALLY IMPOSED NEWS BLACKOUT ON HIS ANNOUNCEMENT AND VERY
FEW PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF IT. IN HIS PRESS RELEASE CHILUWE
CLAIMS THAT HE HAS SOUNDED OUT "GRASS ROOTS OPINION" THOUGH-
OUT ZAMBIA AND THAT "THE RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE HAS BEEN MOST
ENCOURAGING." HE CALLS FOR A CHANGE IN POLICY FROM SOCIALISM
TO FREE ENTERPRISE, INVEIGHS AGAINST THE CONCEPT OF "LIFE
PRESIDENT" (OF WHICH HE CHARGES A SOLE CANDIDATE IS A PRE-
CURSOR), SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT IN THE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR AHEAD
OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND SUGGESTS THAT PRICES COULD BE
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CUT BY ALLOWING IMPORTS "FROM THE CHEAPEST SOURCES."

2. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: RHILUWE WAS BORN IN 1932 IN EASTERN
PROVINCE. HE HAS HELD FAIRLY SENIOR POSITIONS IN SEVERAL
PARASTATALS, AND WAS SENT TO A MANAGEMENT COURSE AT HARVARD
BUSINESS SCHOOL IN 1974 BY INDECO. HE WAS DISMISSED FROM
INDECO SHORTLY AFTER RETURNING TO ZAMBIA AND THEN STARTED HIS

OWN CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS IN LUSAKA. HIS OFFICES ARE CURRENTLY CLOSED DUE TO RENT ARREARS. CHILUWE IS SHORT (5'2") AND IS GENERALLY RUMPLED AND UNIMPRESSIVE IN APPEARANCE. HE HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY AN ACQUAINTANCE AS A "DREAMER" AND "SOMEONE WHO READ ALL THE DALE CARNEGIE BOOKS AND ACTS ACCORDINGLY."

3. COMMENT: THERE IS NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT CHILUWE IS A SERIOUS CANDIDATE AND HIS CLAIMS OF SUPPORT FROM CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND INFLUENTIAL BUSINESSMEN ARE AT BEST DUBIOUS. IT APPEARS THAT THE ONLY WAY HE COULD CONSTITUTIONALLY CHALLENGE KAUNDA AT THE GENERAL CONFERENCE WOULD BE TO HAVE APPROVAL FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND NATIONAL COUNCIL. SINCE THE NATIONAL COUNCIL HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS RECOMMENDING ONLY KAUNDA TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (REFTEL), CHILUWE DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE MANY OPTIONS OPEN TO HIM. WITHOUT FUNDS OR POPULAR SUPPORT, AND WITH THE ACTIVE OPPOSITION OF THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT, CHILUWE WILL LIKELY REMAIN IN OBLIVION RATHER THAN PRESENT ANY REAL CHALLENGE TO KAUNDA.
CLINGERMAN

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